REMARKS

In view of the amendment to the claims, namely the amendment to claims 1 and 13, specifying the suction cup, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

Claims 1 and 13 as amended provide for a suction cup with a shaft depending vertically from the suction cup. Moreover, the suction cup is adapted to be received on the upper surface of the cooking chamber of the microwave oven.

Bowen teaches the use of a pair of opposed suction cups, adapted, through the use of bar member (50), to be asserted horizontally against the side walls of a microwave chamber with an interconnect member required to provide for a vertically depending shaft (34).

Bowen teaches a way from the use of a single ceiling mounted suction cup. Bowen teaches away from the single suction in that it requires a pair of suction cups, mounted on opposed sidewalls. Implicitly, Bowen teaches a single suction cup would not work.

When the other cited prior art is examined, it is deemed not to suggest the use of a ceiling mounted single suction cup. Porter discloses permanent adhesive or "clips" (14) (lines 81 to 84) and does not suggest alignment with a vertically depending shaft terminating in a head (11), instead disclosing separation between elements 13 and 18 (Figure 1). Nor would a combination of Bowen which requires two spaced apart horizontally mounted suction cups with Porter would result in operable structure as set forth in Claims 1 and 13 as amended. Greenstreet discloses the use of a bayonet (1) for attachment of the shaft and head segment to the ceiling of the cooking chamber of a microwave oven but does not suggest the combination of a suction cup vertically mounted to the ceiling of a microwave oven – indeed it would seem to suggest the opposite, permanent attachment. U.S. Patent No. 4,952,069 (Pollard, see IDS) discloses permanent coupling of a vertically mounted shaft to the ceiling of a microwave oven.

Chen discloses the use of a pair of magnets (21) spaced apart from attachment means (22) to secure a shaft and head to the ceiling of a microwave oven. Chen requires separation of the attachment member through a pair of branches leading to spaced apart magnets. Chen implies that a single attachment would not work.

None of the cited references, alone or in combination show the telescoping arrangement set forth in Claim 3.

Claim 4 requires an interference fit. Bowen requires a screw (22), Chen requires an axial stop flange (222), Greenstreet does not address shaft openings and Porter seems to show integral attachments between elements 14 and 13.

None of the references show spiral grooves along the length of the shaft.

The multiplicity of blades as set forth in Claim 8 is not disclosed. Greenstreet Figure 3, element 7, shows a wisk not a multiplicity of blades. Applicant provides a multiplicity of blades extending radially from the vertically depending shaft.

None of the prior art shows a multiplicity of blades wherein some of the blades have openings and some of the blades do not, as set forth in Applicant's Claim 9.

None of the prior art show interference telescope fit with a straight longitudinal groove. Indeed, none of the prior art appears to recognize that gas could be trapped in a suction cup and expand in the heated environment of a microwave oven.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

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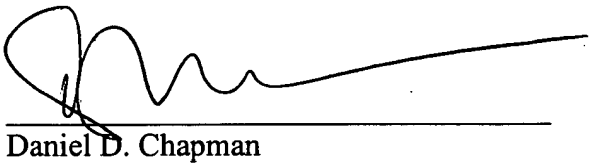
JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.
112 E. Pecan Street, Suite 2100
San Antonio, Texas 78205
(210) 978-7700



Daniel D. Chapman
Reg. No. 32,726